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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/034,119

01/03/2002

Carter F. Lloyd

2671/4

8414

23838

7590

10/31/2003

KENYON & KENYON
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SMITH, JAMES G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2003

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,119

Applicant(s)

LLOYD, CARTER F.

Examiner

James G. Smith

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the change made to paragraph 4 has the phrase "along a an entire", and it appears that "a" should be cancelled.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 49-55 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Small in view of Verna.

Small shows the claimed invention except for the use of jaws that have surfaces that will allow for an evenly distributed force along a width thereof when in use of a substantially flat surface. Verna suggests that a pulling type of pliers tool can have such jaws that will apply an even force along the width of the jaws. It would therefore be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Small by using jaws surfaces that will allow for the even application of force along the width of the jaws surfaces because Verna suggests the use of such a jaw construction when in use on substantially flat surfaces.

4. Claims 56-60 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Small in view of Verna as applied to claims 49-55 above, and further in view of Wang (130).

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Small, as modified by Verna, shows the claimed invention except for the use of a “flat” surface that will apply a force to a shingle and the use of a pivotally attached jaw plate. Wang (130) suggests that a pliers type of tool can have a flat surface (312) on a pivotally attached jaw (31). It would therefore be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Small by using a completely flat gripping surface and at least one pivotally attached jaw plate because Wang (130) suggests the use of such a construction in a pliers type of tool.

Further, to use a modified pliers type of tool like Small to pull shingles would be an obvious modification as clearly the pulling pliers shown can apply such a pulling force to any object.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 49-60 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The added limitation of there being an even distribution of force along an entire width of the gripping jaws is clearly dependent upon the shape of the jaws and of the workpiece, e.g. substantially flat in claims 49-55 and 60 or flat in claims 56-59, however the patents to Verna and Wang make this limitation obvious. Clearly any force applied by the Verna device would be the same along the entire width of each jaw if the entire surface of each jaw comes in contact with a workpiece of any type that would require a substantially flat surface. Further, to also make one of the jaws pivotal on the pliers body is not new as clearly shown by Wang which also shows that the gripping surface can be completely flat.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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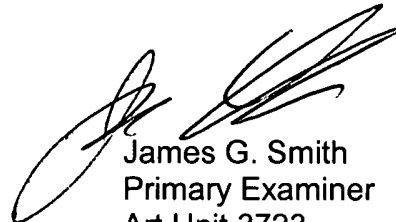
§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James G. Smith whose telephone number is 703-308-1746. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (7:05- 4:35) Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail, III can be reached on 703-308-2687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.



James G. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3723

jgs
10/30/03